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BIOGRAPHIC REGISTER

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The Biographic Register, largest and probably best known of the four Registers, had its genesis in C.I.G. Directive No. 16 of 1 November 1946, "Plans for Coordination of Biographic Intelligence." C.I.G. 16 assigned responsibility for reporting biographic data, producing biographic intelligence and maintaining supporting files on various categories of personalities among the agencies represented on the Intelligence Advisory Board. The State Department became responsible for political, cultural, sociological and economic personalities, and the military departments for individuals within their respective purviews. Scientific figures were assigned "to each agency as jointly agreed or in accordance with categories above."

C.I.G. 16 went on to outline procedures for coordination of biographic activities in the field and also stipulated that "The Director of Central Intelligence will undertake to exploit, for the benefit of C.I.G. and the departmental agencies, sources of biographic information from Government agencies not represented in the I.A.B., and will maintain such other biographic files within the C.I.G. as he deems necessary to comply with the President's Directive." (C.I.A. 16)

Early Days--The Scientific Responsibility

A few months later the Reference Center was established; in it was
~~the~~ ¹⁹⁴⁸ ~~the~~ ^{BR.} Biographic Intelligence Register, which
would soon become ~~the Biographic Register~~. BR was to remain in
existence until the reorganization of OCR on a geographical rather

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No. Foreign Disse. of 23 (so. 26); by late 1948 it was up to 73; ~~the same~~

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(so. 27); in 1960, (); and in 1962, 169. (FY62 Ann. Rep.)

It was then gradually reduced in size during various overall OCR personnel cuts to a 1967 figure of . ()

Not long after the division of biographic responsibilities according to C.I.G. 16 it became apparent that coverage of scientific personalities was being neglected. Therefore, on 25 May 1948 NSCID-8 (old series) assigned to CIA as a service of common concern the primary responsibility for the maintenance of (NSCID-8) biographic data on foreign scientific and technical figures. Within the Agency this responsibility fell to BR.

Over the next few years BR faced a mounting problem: *Although* ^{its} common concern mission was in the scientific and technical fields, ~~but~~ its primary mission was to serve the positive intelligence biographic requirements of CIA, and it received numerous requests from Agency offices for information on political, sociological and cultural figures. *Despite the requirement that State* ~~Although State was required to maintain~~ *that Department* data on such personalities, ~~it~~ had no official responsibility to provide this information to other government offices, and it insisted that it lacked the manpower to service CIA's large volume of requests. BR therefore found it necessary to maintain a branch to cover nonscientific figures for the benefit of CIA. Efforts were made to obtain official sanction for expansion of Agency biographic responsibilities, but the results were limited: In September 1951 the IAC agencies agreed to enlarge the scope of CIA's biographic responsibilities to include persons of economic concern. (Zlotnick. primary source avail??) This did little to ameliorate BR's situation, and dissatisfaction with the arrangement grew.

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In early 1952 CIA's Office of Intelligence Coordination conducted an investigation to determine how the needs of the Agency for

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biographic intelligence on political, sociological and cultural personalities might be more effectively and efficiently met. As a result of this investigation, [REDACTED] Deputy Director (Intelligence), CIA, and W. Park Armstrong, Jr., Special Assistant, Intelligence, Department of State, signed an agreement on 5 November 1952. State/BI agreed to provide complete biographic service to CIA on foreign political, sociological and cultural personalities, in return for which CIA agreed to make funds available to State/BI, in accordance with Section 6 (a), Public Law 110, computed on the basis of the additional costs incurred by State in servicing CIA requests. (agreement)

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It was determined that State/BI would need 27 positions at an annual cost of \$130,000 to discharge its new responsibilities, and from November 1952 through the end of FY-61, the position figures remained unchanged, although the manpower costs increased considerably as the result of in-grade raises, pay raises and the like. During the 1952-61 period State steadily cut back on its support to BI until by 1961 CIA was funding over 75 percent of BI's positions. State and CIA then reached a new agreement: All BI files and available personnel would be transferred to BR. [REDACTED]

1961--BR Goes Political

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BR assumed administrative responsibility for BI's operations on 1 July 1961; the physical merger was accomplished on 1 November 1961, after OCR's move to the new headquarters building. In the transfer BR acquired 100,000 dossiers (bringing its total to c.400,000), five million cards (for a total of c. nine million) and

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67 new T/O slots. Only 10 State employees (6951R000100057 four

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clericals) were qualified and able to transfer to BR, however. An

* intensive recruiting program brought BR up to strength within 9 months of the date of transfer, though it took somewhat longer to

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provide the newcomers with area and language knowledge through training courses and on-the-job experience. With the transfer of the State functions to BR, the Register's request load increased 300 percent. Non-CIA requesters, originally comprising about a third of the total, represented about half, with State the major customer.

(report to PFIAB, 9 Apr 62)

In October 1961 DCID 1/9 (new series), which in 1958 had for the first time defined the respective reference and data exchange responsibilities of the USIB community biographic systems, was revised. The new version gave responsibility to CIA for maintenance of biographic information and production of biographic intelligence on political, economic, scientific, technical, social and cultural personalities and to the Department of Defense for biographic intelligence on military personalities. Responsibility for the collection of biographic data remained as before: State would collect data on all but military figures and the Department of Defense would collect data on military figures and on scientific, technical and economic personalities associated with activities of primary interest to the Department. (DCID 1/9)

With the State biographic responsibility BR acquired a new status--it was assigned the Department symbol INR/CS/BR and given the authority to sign official State communications to the field (Airgrams, Telegrams, Official-Informal letters). Chapter 500, Volume 11, of the Foreign Affairs Manual was revised to emphasize the continuing responsibility of the Foreign Service in the biographic field. BR subsequently worked as closely with the Foreign Service as had BI [redacted]

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← Who Did What and Where

As noted above, BR was unable to concentrate solely on scientific biographic data in the early 1950's. It had a Scientific Branch, but it also had a Regional Branch, which ~~kept files on~~ ~~took care of~~ nonscientific figures. In addition, there was an Index Branch, which provided machine support to the Register.

1952 After the agreement with State, in 1952, the political files of BR were sent to State, and the Register was reorganized into two operational, or analytical, branches--Soviet and Non-Soviet-- and a Support Branch. The Chief of BR at this time was John

(Chief since January 1949)
had replaced [REDACTED] in July 1952

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It was in the operational branches that the incoming documents were analyzed, most of the decisions related to the processing thereof were made, and processing was begun. There, too, customer requests were generally received and retrieval was planned and often undertaken. The branches consisted of five sections, divided on a geographical basis. In the Soviet Branch were the USSR, Far/Near East/Africa and Satellite Sections; in the Non-Soviet Branch, [REDACTED] (G/A) and Western Europe Sections. Because their/area coverage was limited, the USSR and G/A Sections were subdivided into units covering different areas of scientific specialization, such as life sciences or physical sciences. The other three sections were subdivided by country assignments, with each analyst handling from one to 30 countries. BR System

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The biographic analysts in the two operational branches were responsible for cataloguing all biographic and organizational information available; providing biographic information from the files or in written reports to fulfill specific requirements; producing and disseminating comprehensive reports and studies on individuals or categories as required; developing and publishing biographic reference aids (Soviet Men of Science, published in May 1952, contained data on some 18,000 persons; a second edition, in 1959, was to cover ~~more than~~ ^{more than} ~~nearly~~ ^{45,000} ~~50,000~~); conducting liaison with other government agencies for the exchange of biographic information and materials; briefing officials of CIA and other IAC agencies on special and general biographic requirements; answering miscellaneous questions, such as correct spelling or transliterations of a name, title of an individual, or identification of an organization; and arranging for the Support Branch to provide various machine listings of individuals in specified categories, ~~for~~ based on ~~info~~ data recorded on punched cards (for example [REDACTED] 25X1A physicists working for the USSR; biological warfare specialists in Western Europe; personnel associated with the [REDACTED] 25X1A shipbuilding industry; members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences) or Intellofax tapes that listed basic data on selected individuals. ~~for~~

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FY 1954

* In the fiscal year ending 30 June 1954, BR received 3,894 requests from all sources (not including informal, unrecorded

* requests for spot information

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The Support Branch provided functional support to the
two area branches. It was divided into the Classification
Section, where codes were assigned to the index words selec-
ted by analysts in the operational branches; the Machine
Section; the Master File, where the dossier holdings were
located; and the Sovbloc Bibliographic File. *which entered the codes directly onto IBM cards and then filed the cards*

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The branch was responsible for identifying and classifying
by category biographic and organizational data; maintaining
dossiers and card records by individual and by category;
preparing a machine index that permitted selection and listing
by one or more categories; maintaining a comprehensive file of
foreign publications containing biographic information; preparing
by Intellofax reproduction copies of "Who's Who" information
cards; and providing support to editorial boards for official
forms and correct spelling of names, organizations and locations

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Functions

BR's basic functions were to supply information on those categories of individuals for which it was responsible, to conduct liaison with other agencies for the exchange of biographic data and materials, to coordinate CIA requirements for levying on the Foreign Service collectors, and to brief ~~extreme~~ ~~maximum~~ officials of CIA and other agencies on biographic requirements.

Spreading the Word

The role of BR in the intelligence community was publicized both through everyday analyst to analyst contact and through a program of briefings and lectures. Division representatives spoke at many of the regularly scheduled OTR courses, and BR was often included on the program planned for groups visiting the Agency. BR personnel, particularly at the senior levels, regularly visited/missions abroad to brief Agency, State and Defense officials on collection requirements and on services

BR could provide in return. Several persons went to [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] during the 1950's to exploit unique biographic collections

1958
1957-1960 - look it up

and arrange for continued BR support to the field. From [REDACTED]

to 1962 [REDACTED] of BR was detailed to fill an OCI slot in

25X1A Strategic Research, [REDACTED] where, while performing a

valuable support role to the Branch, he unearthed a significant

quantity of material of interest to headquarters in [REDACTED]

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files and those of other US agency components. In June 1963

25X1A [REDACTED] BR was detailed to [REDACTED] as chief of the

25X1A [REDACTED] inter [REDACTED] still held as of 1967.

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What Comes In Must Go Somewhere

Sources

many places --

Information flowed into BR from ~~numerous~~ government intelligence and other reports, unpublished government-controlled data and open source material. It took the form of documents, cards, books, newspapers, periodicals, nonannual publications and microfilm. To control this information ~~we~~ ~~it~~ ~~had~~ ~~many~~ ~~ways~~ ~~of~~ ~~information~~ BR had to have a number of files and a carefully thought out input philosophy.

BR System
p. 15

The input philosophy BR developed was as follows:

1. Attempt to index each collection of raw data received about a personality in as much detail as time and other circumstances permitted.
2. Attempt to link (identify) each new report on a personality with information previously stored on that person.
3. Attempt to unitize the ~~personality~~ [✓] information into discrete files by conversion of incoming documents using any suitable method--extracting, abstracting, reproduction, cut and paste, etc.
4. Attempt to prepare as many master record summaries as possible when processing data into the system. *✓* *D 2*

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Using this philosophy, analysts in various area sections processed their incoming data into several files. Over the years, changes in mission, collection requirements, T/O and budget restrictions, changes in the administration and reorganizations, and, principally, the changing demands of the consumers all contributed to the establishment and destruction or conversion of numerous files.

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The primary files existing in the early 1950's would, ~~outlive, the Register File,~~ however, ~~continuing to exist throughout the life of the Register and even~~ ~~beyond the~~ These were the Dossier File, ~~and~~ the Card File and the Sovbloc Bibliographic File. ~~1967 reorganization.~~

(one--and occasionally more--per person) The personality dossiers, kept in the Master File, could be either folders containing hard-copy data or McBee Keysort cards containing extracted data. For each dossier certain information was coded and punched into IBM cards, which could later be used to obtain various machine listings. The dossiers themselves were ~~randomly~~ assigned numbers and filed in numerical order; machine listings of the dossiers ~~were provided biographic to the analysts for each country.~~ The files inherited from State in 1961 ~~were filed~~ had been filed alphabetically, with no information available for machine retrieval. Some of these dossiers ~~were converted to the numerical system, though little was applied to~~ filing ~~indexing of the material they contained was done.~~ Other inherited dossiers, primarily on Latin American and Near East/
African personalities, remained under alphabetical ~~manual~~ control, with no coding at all done.

If information received on an individual was not sufficient for a dossier, if the names were not important enough to index in detail, or if the material arrived in card form, the manually controlled repository was the Biographic Card File, ~~which was~~ ^{also manually controlled}

The Sovbloc Bibliographic Card File, ^{also manually controlled} contained cards obtained from special contract operations and consisting of references to or abstracts from publications of foreign scientists. These cards were filed by the author's name and by his organizational

which recommended that a bibliographic file of Soviet scientific

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by CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence, dated September 1959

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✓ articles and books be established within the Agency, and that this file be arranged by the name of author and institutional affiliation of author. The responsibility for establishing and developing this file of scientific literature was assigned to BR. The Sovbloc Biblio File, and similar files established for other areas, eventually developed into an important, and in some instances the only source of biographic and bibliographic information on foreign scientists. By 1960 the Sovbloc

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(BR System Description, except for final clause)

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Lesser files included the following:

Category Files--manual files maintained by individual area desks and varying in organization, format and depth of coverage. They listed such information as occupants of diplomatic or high-level government positions and leaders of mass organizations.

Background Folders--manual files containing information on selected subjects and organizations used primarily as reference material by the individual analysts.

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Name-Indexed-to-Document Files--specialized files established by machine indexing of selected documents. Files of punch cards were maintained for each such file, and updated machine listings were supplied periodically. The documents themselves were either filed in separate document files, usually chronologically, or were incorporated into the dossier or card files.

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What Can We Do For You, Sir or Madam?

BR put its collection of files to good use in providing a wide range of services to the intelligence community: complete narrative reports or summaries of information in answer to specific requests; automatic reporting on certain significant figures; telephonic answers to urgent questions; file material for study within BR as well as retention copies of documents; reproductions of author/title bibliographic items from Soviet Bloc technical literature— dating from 1948; machine-selected biographic briefs on scientific and technical personalities; and various machine listings.

With every year, as BR's services became more widely known, requests for those services increased in volume. In FY 1962, after the consolidation of the Agency in one building, there was a 180 percent increase over the previous year in ~~new~~ requesters visiting BR. (OCR Annual Report FY-62) With the takeover of State biographic responsibilities in 1961 BR assumed a new pattern of response oriented toward current intelligence and quick-reaction support in answering requests the total number of which had increased about 300 percent over that of the previous

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year. (OCR Annual Report FY-63)
In ~~1961~~ Conference and White House Support After assuming responsibility for political figures, BR expanded its support of US personnel attending conferences by producing biographies of individuals attending all kinds of international gatherings, not just scientific and technical. A major annual project was the preparation of a ~~on foreign delegates~~ large number of biographies for the UN delegation to the UN General Assembly sessions. The Register also became involved in support to the White House, contributing biographic sketches

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TO BRIEFING BOOKS PREPARED BY OCI on high-level foreign visitors to Washington or on persons whom high-level US officials traveling abroad might meet. (Prior to 1961 State had produced such biographies.) (OCI N 50-61)

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Task Forces

The Register participated in task forces on Vietnam, Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and China, contributing enormous quantities of biographic material in some cases. For instance, in 1962 the Latin American Section produced a directory of Cuban diplomatic personnel abroad, which could be used to locate potential sources a directory of Cuban Government officials; and, on a 2-week crash basis during the Cuban missile crisis, a ^{Oct 1962} ~~five~~ volume publication containing 1,374 biographic sketches on persons who might have been qualified for Cuban Government posts had Castro been overthrown. ~~(The last-named publication was accompanied by a fifth volume—an occupational index to the personalities.)~~ During the 1965 Dominican Republic crisis the responsible desk operated almost around the clock answering urgent requests (about ~~600~~ 600 per month in the early postrebellion period) and preparing biographies of individuals who emerged "out of the woodwork" into positions of leadership. (Sig. Accomp. 65-66) BR also played an active role with groups studying the succession problems in the USSR, Communist China and Nationalist China.

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The greatest consumer of BR services was the Agency--primarily the DD/P, once it finally learned just what BR could do to support its operations. The heaviest non-Agency load was from the State Department, particularly after 1961. Although not responsible for strictly military personalities, BR did maintain files on those military leaders who were also considered

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"political"--a case especially true in many countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia, where the leaders of the government came from the military. In many cases, therefore, the Department of Defense (and later the Defense Intelligence Agency), though responsible under DCID 1/9 for all military personalities, came

to BR for information on such persons and found more there than

(CIA officials periodically suggested--without success--in its own files. (that BR assume responsibility for military figures, thus becoming the real biographic center of the government.)

PLBRL
In early 1967 BR became the guiding light of a new program--
(PLBRL)
the Potential Leaders Biographic Reporting List/Program. This program was developed through extensive interagency planning and coordination to overcome noticeable ~~maximum~~ deficiencies in the biographic program--the lack of data on emerging leaders in foreign countries, particularly the developing nations. These deficiencies had become dramatically evident in the mid-1960's, when a series of sudden coups or other governmental changes had catapulted to power groups of leaders on whom BR and other biographic repositories in Washington could supply little or no information to the US policymakers who clamored for it.

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The lack of data in BR could hardly be blamed on BR, which merely accepted and made use of what others collected, did not do its own collection. The intelligence community therefore developed the PLBRL Program to provide a coordinated approach to the collection of information on these emerging leaders. It called for preparation, and periodic revision, of a target list of potential leaders for each country by the Country Team, and coordinated collection of biographic data on the target personalities by Foreign Service, Department of Defense and

Upon receipt of the

list, BR was to prepare commentaries on them as substantive collection

guidance, soliciting appropriate contributions from State/INR,

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the State Country Desk Officers, and the Production Center of DIA.

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↳ (CA-5700). The program was destined to become an ever more valuable addition to these biographic programs already in existence. By the end of ~~BY 1962~~^{F 7787}, 77 PLBRLs had been received from the field; BR had coordinated community responses to 10 of these country lists, surveyed biographic holdings on the personalities involved, and communicated its findings to the appropriate Embassies and Legations for action (Aug. 1967 contrib. to PFIAB)

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Publications

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Almost from the beginning of its existence BR issued publications containing biographic information on scientific and technical personalities. They were considered unfinished Intelligence publications, and included the Report, Bulletin Reference Aid series. The revised DCID 1/9 of 1961 charged CIA with the responsibility for the production of biographic ^{they} ~~thus BR became~~ Intelligence--the only reference office to receive such a mandate--and the Register's issuances were thereafter classified as finished intelligence publications. These ~~included~~ ^{were} the Biographic Intelligence Bulletin (CR-BB) on individuals of current intelligence interest, and the Biographic Intelligence Report (CR-BR) on groups of personalities of intelligence interest. In addition, there were Biographic Reference Aids (CR-BA), which consisted of directories of government and party officials in Communist countries, organizational studies and other list-type publications.

Art
 One BA of interest to the entire intelligence community was Chiefs of State and Cabinet Members of Foreign Governments. State/BI had published this volume on an irregular basis, thus diminishing its usefulness, but BR found that by the use of EAM techniques it could make Chiefs of State a monthly publication. Demand for this publication more than doubled in its first 4 years--from 568 copies ~~taxi~~ of the August 1962 issue to 1443 copies of the September 1966 issue.

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In June 1964, by order of the DD/I, six categories of publications were established as DD/I standards for all finished

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intelligence publications issued by offices within the Directorate.

ALL BR publications were subsequently issued as DD/I publications: the Reports as Biographic Intelligence Reports; the Bulletins as

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Biographic Intelligence Briefs; and the Reference Aids as
DD/I N 5-100-b

Biographic Research Aids. In 1966 the categories were further

reduced, and after that all finished biographic publications

were issued as DD/I Intelligence Memorandums. The Research Aids

^{or Reports}
which did not meet the definition of "finished intelligence" as then

established, and they were subsequently produced as OCR Reference
Aids.

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Primary
Source?

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In August 1966 the D/CR (Vance) and the D/OCI (E. Drexel

Godfrey) signed an agreement providing for the coordination

between OCR and OCI of all finished biographic intelligence

^{Memo 16/8/66}
publications. BR analysts also coordinated some publications

with other appropriate offices, such as OER and OSI.

Some examples of early BR publications were ~~the following~~

Soviet Men of Science (the first edition, published in 1952,

contained data on some 18,000 persons; the second, in 1959, data on

over 45,000)

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Scientists and Technicians in the USSR (1955)

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After 1961 the character of BR's publications changed considerably. No longer oriented strictly toward scientific figures, The Register published its ~~xx~~ Bulletins (later Briefs) and Reports in response to requests of the Department of State and standing requirements of the intelligence community for reports on ~~xxxxxx~~ prominent figures who had been appointed to (or were contending for) significant positions at home or abroad. The publications were oriented primarily toward the Western world. Some country analysts found themselves hard pressed to keep up with their production responsibilities--for example, between July 1964 and December 1966 four separate publications were written to reflect cha [REDACTED]

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Some of the Bulletins, Briefs and Reports produced in the 1960's were the following:

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Delegates, 16th Session, United Nations General Assembly,

September 1961 [REDACTED]

Leading Cuban Personalities

Haitian Opposition Personalities

The New Italian Cambodian, Guatemalan, Bolivian, etc. Cabinet

The Sudanese Communist Party Central Committee

Revolutionary Council of Algeria

Brazilian Gubernatorial Elections

Biographies of Eritrean Dissidents

New Full Members CPSU Central Committee

Selected Personalities, Republic of Vietnam (over 300 biographies)

These all
have series
numbers &
dates, but
they
say?

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Another type of publication for which BR assumed responsibility after the transfer from State was the directory [REDACTED] of party and government officials in Communist countries. The directories, published as Research (later Reference) Aids, (RA's), were responsive to the requirements of DDP, DDI/OCI and the Foreign Service. Still another ^{Aid} RA was the monthly Appearances of Soviet Leaders, the responsibility for which was transferred to BR from the Radio Propaganda Branch [REDACTED] The original request for this publication had come from the Chief of DDP's SR Division, but the list also served OCI, State and many other users. An Appearances of Chinese Leading Chinese Communist Personalities had been published by State ~~in~~ and after 1961 was expanded by BR at the request of OCI. (Pubs. of BR, 7 Mar 66) ✓
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In 1963 BR began publication of another major series--
the Biographic Handbooks (BH). The BH succeeded the Key Personalities (KP) chapter of the NIS and contained finished biographies on the leaders of each country. It was updated periodically, either by rewriting reports already included or by adding new reports. The major advantage of such a scheduled biographic publication program was that such production often anticipated field requirements or provided immediate BR response to such requirements. (During FY 1965 the number of requests for biographic intelligence received by BR decreased by 8.7% from FY 64. Increased ready coverage through the BH program was thought to be a possible factor in curtailing requests.)
The KP program was originally administered by the State Department, but BR assumed the responsibility for ~~its~~ production of the KP along with State's other biographic duties in 1961. Final decisions regarding scheduling, length and editing of the KP reports, however, rested with OBI, the coordinating office for the entire NIS. This greatly delayed publication of a KP--often to the point where much of ~~it~~ was obsolete.

In April 1963 the AD/CR (Borel) succeeded in having ~~the responsible~~ BR made the ~~responsible~~ office for providing scheduled biographic reports to components of the government that previously relied on the KP. The ~~maximum~~ approved USIS approved the action on the grounds that biographic intelligence is not basic intelligence and that BR, by virtue of its methods and capabilities, could automatically provide updating increments to previously issued country handbooks as a by-product of its routine production.

The new BHs were issued in looseleaf form with permanent

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covers, so that supplements could be easily added at any future ^{after 2 years in operation the BH program covered 50 countries (Aug 65)}

At the time of the 1967 OCR reorganization BHs had been published on.....countries. ()

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Progress Toward All-Source Concept

came to be
Once solidly established, BR's files ~~xxxx~~/regarded
as the nation's ~~xxxx~~ best single collection of biographic
data on prominent foreign personalities. [Therefore,] it
seldom appeared to be necessary to seek information else-
where, and BR analysts relied on their own files to answer
requests unless specifically asked to look elsewhere. In
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1965, however, the D/CR [REDACTED] became concerned that a
customer requesting biographic data from BR or from the
Special Register (SR) might not be getting a total response.
He therefore instructed analysts in both Registers to
coordinate the OCR response to a request among all appropriate
components unless ~~instructed~~ the requester instructed
him not to do so. (memo D/CR to C/BR & C/SR, 9/65)

[REDACTED]

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